

During 1689 William remained in England, but every succeeding year his absences compelled Mary to take a prominent, though reluctant, part in the administration.

She thus explained her attitude :

•And my opinion having ever been that women should not meddle with government, I have never given my self to be inquisitive into those kind of matters. I have ever used my self not to trouble the King about bussiness, since I was married to him ; for I saw him so full of it that I thought, and he has told me so himself, that when he could get from it, he was glad to come to me and have his thoughts diverted by other discourse; and I found this so reasonable, and seeing it pleased him, I who desired nothing else, have continued still to live so with him ; which has made me very ignorant in all kind of bussiness, and I have this notion fully fixt in my mind that, all wisdom being the gift of God, he does impart it where he sees it necessary, and since it has pleased him to take all of my hands by giving me such a husband, I thinck I ought only to make it my bussiness to serve God, and do all the good I can in the world. And tho^j there does not want those that would make me meddle, in hopes to do mischief that way, and some times tell me, that I may come to govern alone, yet I am so persuaded, that if ever it pleased God to send that great misfortune, he would then time enough direct me how to behave my self.¹

At the beginning of 1690 William made up his mind to

conduct the war in Ireland in person and
asked Mary what
form of arrangement she would prefer.
Finding that her
mind was very open, he

told me, he would put it to my choice, whether
in his ab-
sence all should be governd in my name or If
it should be
left to the Privy Council with order to them to
acquaint me
with all things. I only desired he would take
care I should
not make a foolish figure in the world. I told
him that the

¹ Doeberner, pp. 22-3.